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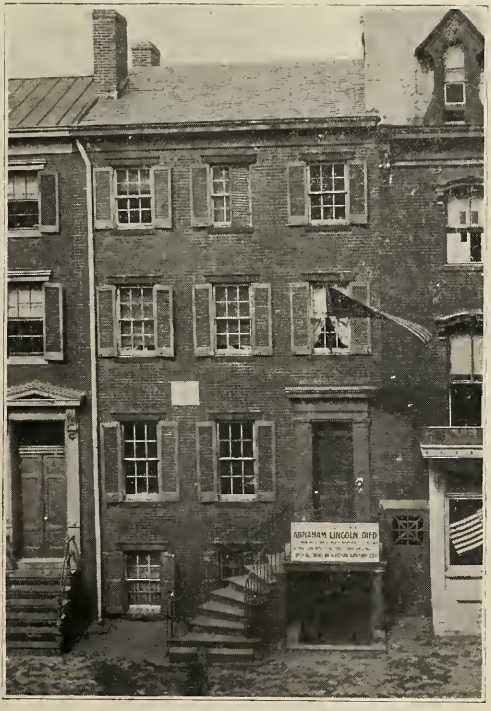
Memorial to Abraham Lincoln



THE HOUSE IN WHICH LINCOLN DIED
516 TENTH ST., NORTHWEST
WASHINGTON, D. C.

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The Oldroyd Lincoln Memorial Collection.

If one born in the time of Shakespeare had so absorbed vitality and time as to have gathered in one memorial collection three thousand articles pertaining to the poet, he would have rightfully won the gratitude of all coming nations. This work of love is what Osborn H. Oldroyd has done for Abraham Lincoln. For forty-nine years he has so devoted himself to the great personality of a man whom, alas, he never saw, that today his collection of three thousand articles is one of the most interesting and valuable ever collected in behalf of a human being.

This collection should, without question, belong to the Nation, for it is a lamentable fact that no proper Lincoln memorial of a national character exists; nor is there, within the national Capital, a monument really worthy of his memory.

It would seem that no more fitting memorial could be offered to preserve the memory of this great man than this house, from which his soul took flight, and with it these relics and souvenirs, all of which speak so highly and eloquently of his life, that their safe preservation should be the sacred duty of the Nation, that those now living as well as the countless generations to come may all be brought closer to his memory.

The building, as it now stands, in the midst of the busy traffic of a great city, is in almost constant danger of destruction by fire or other causes, and before altogether too late, steps should be taken to guard against any such possible calamity.

It is the most earnest desire of Mr. Oldroyd that his life's work, or the results of such work, shall remain for all time in the Nation's Capital, in the midst of the stirring scenes and the closing of Abraham Lincoln's life. For this reason he has declined to accept a number of offers from other cities which, if accepted, would mean the removal of the entire collection.

Mr. Oldroyd has perfected plans which, if carried out properly, will provide a memorial worthy of the name of Lincoln, and a shrine at which all Americans would gladly pause to pay homage.

These are the result of years of careful study on his part and have been drawn, under his direction, by the Government architect, Frederick D. Owen. These plans call for the purchase of property on each side of the "Lincoln House," as it is now called, which building in itself is now the property of the Government. The buildings now standing on these lots to be torn down and a two-story fireproof building erected on the rear of each lot which shall connect with the house proper, thereby allowing greater room for the collection, which will naturally be added to and increased in quantity, as well as in value, from time to time as the days and years roll by. The open ground remaining to be beautified by flowers and shrubbery, while the building, as it now stands, will be completely encased in a fireproof wall, thereby insuring safety for all time.

ELIZABETH PORTER GOULD,
Boston Evening Transcript.

A Bill

By Mr. Rodenberg.

For the purchase of the Oldroyd collection of Lincoln relics, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that the sum of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated, out of any money in the United States Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the purchase of the entire Oldroyd collection of Lincoln relics, containing three thousand pieces, more or less, and for the acquisition, by purchase, condemnation, or otherwise, of the premises known as number five hundred and fourteen and five hundred and eighteen Tenth street, northwest, Washington, District of Columbia, adjoining the Government property, known as the house in which President Lincoln died, and for the removal of such adjoining houses, beautifying and parking the grounds, making fireproof the house in which said relics are stored, and for the erection of a suitable and adequate addition or wings to the aforesaid Lincoln house. That the amount herein appropriated shall be disbursed and expended under the direction of the official in charge of public buildings and grounds of the District of Columbia.

Report.

(To accompany H. R. 25,550.)

The sub-committee of the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 25,550) for the purchase of the Oldroyd collection of Lincoln relics, and for other purposes, after a careful consideration of the merits of said bill, made the following report:

By the terms of the bill it is sought to purchase the celebrated Oldroyd collection of Lincoln relics; to acquire by purchase, condemnation, or otherwise, the premises situated in the City of Washington, D. C., known as Nos. 514 and 518 Tenth Street, N. W.

In 1897 Mr. Sayers introduced a bill providing for the purchase of the house No. 516 in said street, in which Lincoln died, appropriating $30,000 for said purpose. This became a law, and the relics now owned by Capt. Osborn H. Oldroyd, which had previously been in that building, are now on exhibition there, and are constantly menaced

with destruction by fire. It is proposed to remove the adjoining houses mentioned, erect a suitable two-story building on the rear of the two lots and to make the whole as near fireproof as possible. In the general scheme is embraced the purpose to beautify and park the grounds on either side of the building now owned by the Government where the President passed away, giving added security against fire.

The plan, which has the approval of the War Department and the former Superintendent of Public Buildings and Grounds, is herewith shown.

This wonderful aggregation of almost priceless souvenirs and reminders of Abraham Lincoln is said to be the greatest and most complete of its kind in existence. It was brought here from Springfield, Ill., where it was located in the Lincoln homestead for years. The collection has attained more than 3,000 pieces, the result of nearly a half century of studiously unremitting work by Captain Oldroyd, who is regarded as the best equipped Lincoln student now living, so that in the assembling of the relics he could not be imposed upon, his discriminating knowledge barring even an attempt at deception or fraud. This makes the collection bear the seal of authenticity. Each piece forms a unit leading up to the completed story that clusters closely around the matchless figure in human history. The collection also contains a comprehensive library of nearly 1,200 volumes relating to the great martyr and the war, with thousands of almost invaluable clippings, newspaper and magazine files, hundreds of sermons delivered in various parts of the land on the assassination, besides other manuscripts, original letters and papers.

Several very flattering offers have been made by individuals representing different cities to purchase the Oldroyd collection, but the owner has declined to consider them, as he feels that the United States should acquire it in order to insure its preservation in this historic building at the capital of the nation, where it properly belongs.

Many valued souvenirs of the great President are scattered over the country that would find a place in the proposed museum after assurance that a proper fireproof structure has been erected. Owners and custodians of such relics have so indicated. The National Museum has many salient reminders of Lincoln that should and would be added to the main collection.

There is no adequate monument to Lincoln at the national capital. This would be one full of sentiment of the homely kind. In passing a strong resolution the National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic, which met at Saratoga, favoring the acquirement of the Oldroyd collection by the Government, it was set forth among other things that no monument could be erected that would appeal to the whole people with as much sentimental force as this proposed memorial. The committee unanimously endorse that conclusion and recommend that the bill do pass, with the following amendment:

"On page 2 of the bill, section 2, strike out all after the words 'direction of the' in line 5, and insert in lieu thereof the following: 'Secretary of the Treasury.'"

Endorsement of Nat. Encampment G. A. R.

Resolved, by the Grand Army of the Republic, in National Encampment assembled at Salt Lake City, Utah, Thursday, August 12, 1909, that we heartily reindorse House of Representatives Bill No. 25,550, introduced by Hon. W. A. Rodenberg, January 7, 1909, second session, Sixtieth Congress, a copy of which, together with the report made thereon by the sub-committee of the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds is hereunto attached. Offered by

JAMES TANNER, *Past Commander-in-Chief.*

Woman's Relief Corps Resolutions.

The following resolutions were presented by the Department of California and Nevada to the Twenty-first National Convention of the Woman's Relief Corps, which met in San Francisco, August 19, 1903, and adopted by a unanimous vote of the Convention:

WHEREAS, The sacred mementoes of our great and martyred President, Abraham Lincoln, are of inestimable value, not only to the people of our Nation and its yet unborn generations, but to all civilized people, as a lesson in highest patriotism; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Twenty-first National Convention of the Woman's Relief Corps petition the Government of the United States that it shall purchase and hold all such mementoes of the life and national service of Abraham Lincoln known as the "Oldroyd Lincoln Memorial Collection."

Should be owned by the Government.

In this connection I would invite attention to the great desirability of the Government securing the ownership of the Lincoln Memorial Collection, which is now the property of O. H. Oldroyd,—and at present contained in the House in which Abraham Lincoln died, at No. 516 Tenth Street, Northwest, Washington, D. C.,—at as early a date as practicable.

It would be a positive misfortune and shame to permit this invaluable collection to be removed from the Nation's Capital City.

T. M. SYMONS,
Colonel, U. S. Army,
Major, Corps of Engineers,
Supt. of Public Buildings and Grounds.

Endorsed:

H. T. HODGES,
Major, Corps of Engineers.

ALEX. McKENZIE,
Brig. General, Corps of Engineers.

ROBERT SHAW OLIVER,
Assistant Secretary of War.

BERESFORD, PR.

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